

**Substitute Specification Page 1****INTRAVENOUS CATHETER INTRODUCING DEVICE****BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION****1. Field of the invention**

This invention relates to an intravenous catheter introducing device, more particularly to an intravenous catheter introducing device with a needle cannula which is retractable into a barrel for safe disposal.

2. Description of the Related Art

Referring to Figs. 1 and 2, a self-retracting IV catheter introducer disclosed in U.S. patent No. 5,989,220 is shown to include a catheter connector assembly including a barrel 10 enclosing a retraction body 11 which has a front portion 111 that carries a needle cannula 12 and that extends through an opening in front of the barrel 10, and a rear portion 112 that is mounted within the barrel 10. The front portion 111 has a connection surface 111a which is frictionally engaged with a corresponding connection surface 131 of a catheter hub 13 so as to prevent rearward retraction of the retraction body 11. A biasing spring 15 is compressed against a ledge 101 at the front of the barrel 10, and a spring seat 113 of the retraction body 11. In use, the needle cannula 12 which extends through a flexible catheter 14 is inserted into a patient's vein to introduce the catheter 14 into the vein for intravenous delivery of fluid. The catheter hub 13 is then separated from the retraction body 11 by forcibly pulling the barrel 10 while holding